

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**PHENYL MERCURIC ACETATE LISTING
BACKGROUND DOCUMENT
FOR THE INORGANIC CHEMICAL LISTING
DETERMINATION**

This Document Does Not Contain Confidential Business Information

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1. SECTOR OVERVIEW

Phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA, $C_8H_8HgO_2$) is an organic mercury compound, a white to creamy white odorless crystalline powder or clear solution. Prior to 1990 it was the predominant fungicide used in the latex paint industry. In 1990, EPA banned the use of PMA in interior paint (55 FR 26754, June 29, 1990) and subsequently, the paint industry ceased using PMA in paint production. PMA is still used for other limited purposes (e.g., slimicide in paper mills; selective herbicide for crabgrass; fungicide for diseases of turf on golf greens and tees; fungicidal seed dressing for seed- and soil-borne diseases of cereals, sorghum, and groundnuts). PMA currently is not manufactured in the United States, therefore, there are no wastes being generated. Any domestic demand is met by imports from other countries. Given the compound's limited market within the U.S., it is highly unlikely that new production of PMA will occur within the U.S. in the future.

2. SEARCH FOR PRODUCERS

Several information sources were reviewed and searched to identify companies that produce PMA. This review revealed that PMA is not produced within the United States. The sources we searched are: a September 30, 1997 draft report entitled "Industrial Overview for the Inorganic Chemicals Listing Determination", the 1994 edition of the Chemical Buyers Directory, the Hazardous Substances Data Bank (The database was last updated in 1991 for PMA and our search was conducted in April, 1999), and a scientific paper published by the University of Iowa listing commercial fungicidal products that contain PMA¹. The online sources we checked include ChemConnect (www.chemconnect.com), Chemcyclopedia (www.chemcyclopedia.com), Chemical Online (www2.chemicalonline.com), and Thomas Register Online (www.thomasregister.com),

The companies identified during the search were contacted to begin the information gathering process. It was determined that the companies either distribute or market PMA, but none are involved in the actual manufacture of the material. **Table 1.1** summarizes the specific search results for producers of PMA.

¹ Morgan, Donald P., M.D., Ph.D., "Fungicides", Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings, 4th edition, Chapter 12, Environmental Protection Agency, March, 1989.

Table 1.1 Search Results For Producers of PMA

Information Source	Company	Results
1994 Chemical Buyers Directory	Akzo	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
	Alchem	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
	Ruger	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor , not a manufacturer
1994 Chemical Buyers Directory and ChemConnect	Em Industries Inc Hawthorne, New York	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
1994 Chemical Buyers Directory and Chemcyclopedia Chemical Online	Spectrum Chemical Manufacturing Corporation Gardena, California	4/8/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
1994 Chemical Buyers Directory and Chemical Online	Atomergic Chemetals Corporation Farmingdale, New York	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
Chemcyclopedia Chemical Online	Alfa Aesar/Johnson Matthey Wards Hill, Massachusetts	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer
A 1997 draft report ² and Hazardous Substances Data Bank	Cosan Chemical Corporation Carlstadt, New Jersey	4/8/99 phone call confirmed the plant closed in 1992
	Nuodex (Troy) Inc., Elizabeth, New Jersey	No longer listed in phone directory
A 1997 draft report ³	Nuodex Chemical Newark, New Jersey	4/7/99 phone call confirmed the company buys PMA from a Spanish producer and distributes

² Industrial Overview for the Inorganic Chemicals Listing Determination. Science Applications International Corporation. September 30, 1997. p. 85.

³ Ibid.

Information Source	Company	Results
Hazardous Substances Data Bank	W.A. Cleary Corporation Somerset, New Jersey	4/8/99 phone call confirmed the company is a distributor, not a manufacturer